Challenging your Property Tax Assessment in Burlington, Vermont

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&

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Burlington Board of Tax Appeals

May, 2022



Overview

Scope of this Presentation

Property Valuation / Assessment Techniques

Cost Approach, Sales Comparison Approach, Income Approach, Special Statutory Approaches

Appeal Timeframe / Deadlines

Understanding the Lister Card

Diminishing Cost Curve

Making your case

- Cost Approach
- Sales Comparison

Equalization

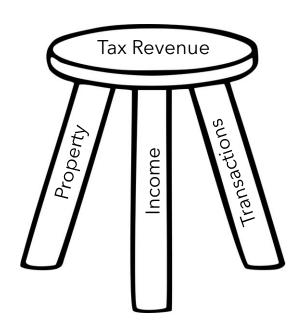
Appeal Process Steps

Taxation: the 3 leg stool

1. Property/Assets

2. Income

3. Transactions



Scope of this Presentation

Homeowner Orientation

- 1. Single Family Residences
- 2. Duplexes, Triplexes
- 3. Condominiums

Not for Commercial Appeals

- 1. Four or more residential units
- 2. Commercial, Industrial, Farms

Mobile Homes not addressed here



Property Assessment The 4 basic approaches

- ☐ Cost Approach
- □ Sales Comparison Approach
- □ Income Approach
- □ Special Statutory Approaches

Assessment Methods - Statute

32 V.S.A. § 3481. Definitions

The following definitions shall apply in this Part and chapter 101 of this title, pertaining to the listing of property for taxation:

(1)(A) "Appraisal value" shall mean, with respect to property enrolled in a use value appraisal program, the use value appraisal as defined in subdivision 3752(12) of this title, multiplied by the common level of appraisal, and with respect to all other property, except for owner-occupied housing identified in subdivision (C) of this subdivision (1), the estimated fair market value. The estimated fair market value of a property is the price that the property will bring in the market when offered for sale and purchased by another, taking into consideration all the elements of the availability of the property, its use both potential and prospective, any functional deficiencies, and all other elements such as age and condition that combine to give property a market value. Those elements shall include the effect of any State or local law or regulation affecting the use of land, including 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 or any land capability plan established in furtherance or implementation thereof, rules adopted by the State Board of Health, and any local or regional zoning ordinances or development plans. In determining estimated fair market value, the sale price of the property in question is one element to consider, but is not solely determinative.

Assessment Methods - Cost

The Cost Approach to Value

Most Common Approach in Mass Appraisals

Collects Multiple Data Points for Land and Buildings

Includes Property Location, Size and Characteristics

Applies an algorithm tested against actual sales to the data to determine a valuation

Cost Approach Algorithm

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TotalValue = (\sum_{1}^{LandLines} ((\sum_{1}^{3} ((\underbrace{StandardSize}_{ActualSize} \times \underbrace{CurvePercent}_{100} + (1 - \underbrace{CurvePercent}_{100})) \times PricePerUnit \times UnitsInInterval)) + (1 - \underbrace{CurvePercent}_{100}) \times PricePerUnit \times UnitsInInterval)) + (1 - \underbrace{CurvePercent}_{100}) \times PricePerUnit \times UnitsInInterval)
        \times (PrimeExteriorWallTypeFactor \times (1-SecondaryExteriorWallTypePercent) + SecondaryWallTypeFactor
          \times Secondary Wall Type Percent) \times Roof Structure Factor \times Roof Material Factor \times View Code Factor
          \times (PrimeInteriorWallTypeFactor \times (1 - SecondaryInteriorWallTypePercent) + SecondaryInteriorWallTypeFactor
          \times SecondaryInteriorWallTypePercent) \times ParitionIndexFactor \times (PrimeFloorTypeFactor \times (1))
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          \times Electric Type Factor \times Insulation Type Factor \times Plumbing Type Factor \times Heating Fuel Type Factor
          \times (Prime Heating System Type Factor \times (1-Secondary Heating System Type Percent) + Secondary Heating System Type Factor \times (1-Secondary Heating System Type 
      \times Secondary Heating System Type Percent) \times (1 - (\frac{Percent Common Wall}{100} \times \frac{Percent Off}{100})) \times (1 + (Average Height Per Floor - Height Per Floor) \times Percent Unit)) \times (\frac{Standard Size}{Actual Size} \times \frac{Curve Percent}{100} + (1 - \frac{Curve Percent}{100})) \times Sub Area Price Factor
          \times Alternate Type Factor) \times (SubArea Square Footage \times Adjusted Sketched Area Factor \times Percent Alternate Type))
          +((FirstFullBathValue+((MainFullBathUnits-1)\times FullBathValue))\times FullBathRating+(AdditionalFullBathUnits-1)\times FullBathValue+((MainFullBathUnits-1)\times FullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainFullBathValue+((MainF
          \times AdditionalFullBathValue) \times AdditionalFullBathRating + (FullBathLumpSum \times TotalFullBathUnits))
          +((FirstThreeQuarterBathValue + ((MainThreeQuarterBathUnits - 1) \times ThreeQuarterBathValue))
          \times ThreeQuarterBathRating + (AdditionalThreeQuarterBathUnits \times AdditionalThreeQuarterBathValue)
          \times Additional Three Quarter Bath Rating + (Three Quarter Bath Lump Sum * Total Three Quarter Bath Units))
          +((FirstHalfBathValue + ((MainHalfBathUnits - 1) \times HalfBathValue)) \times HalfBathRating
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  \times Fireplace Rating + (Fireplace Lump Sum \times Total Fireplace Units)) + ((First Wood Stove Flues Value Sum Value Flues Value Sum Value Flues Value Flue
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  \times TotalWoodStoveFluesUnits)) + (FirstBasementGarageValue + ((BasementGarageUnits - 1) \times BasementGarageValue))
  + (First Heat System Value + ((Heat System Units - 1) \times Heat System Value)) - ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heated Value)) + ((100 - Heat Percent) \times Base Heate
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  \times Quality \times LandUseCodeFactor \times NeighborhoodFactor \times NeighborhoodModifier) \times ((1-Depreciation) \times PercentComplete))
+\sum_{}^{Number Of Outbuildings}((Quantity \times Units) \times (UnitPrice \times (\frac{StandardSize}{ActualSize} \times \frac{CurvePercent}{100} + (1 - \frac{CurvePercent}{100})) \times Quality)
  \times LandUseCodeFactor \times NeighborhoodFactor \times NeighborhoodModifier) \times ((1-Depreciation) \times PercentComplete)))
  \times JurisdictionalFactor
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Assessment Methods - Sales

Sales Comparison Approach to Value

Identify recent, comparable sales that were bona-fide arms length transactions

Identify the critical components of each property

Evaluate the values of components that are different

Estimate the sales price of the subject property by adjusting the sales of other properties by the difference in value of the components that are different

Typical Fee Appraisal Sales Comparison Report

Uniform Residential Appraisal Report 801140692

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Assessment Methods - Income

Income Approach

Used only for Multi-Family Residential units of 4 or more units

Commercial and Industrial properties

Estimates the price a property would sell for based upon the amount of income it would produce for an investor and then applies a capitalization rate typical for that investment.

Caution - While the Assessor's Record Card, may show a building and land value breakout, they are not accurate for comparison purposes

Assessment Methods - Income

Example: Decision in Appeal of Elm Terrace, Parcel ID 049-4-166-000, 2021

6. [The taxpayers] presented several tables and charts comparing the assessed value of their property to several properties using Lister Card data. As described above, we are not permitted to use Lister Card data to determine the fair market value of the subject property. To illustrate this point, we note that the [Taxpayers] point out that 27 Adams Street is a property with a lot size of ~26,000 sq. ft where the land value is assessed at \$143,200 while their lot is only ~4,200 sq.ft. but assessed at \$231,900. While this disparity suggests that the valuation methodology is incongruous, the reason is because 27 Adams Street is an 11 unit apartment building and is therefore assessed using the income approach to valuation wherein the value is not determined by the value of the land and the building separately, but by the income production of the property in total. While there may be a land valuation shown on the Lister Card, it bears no relation to the valuation of the property. This is a telling and affirming example of why Lister Card data is not a reliable indicator of fair market value of a property.

Assessment Methods Statutory Approaches

Statutory

Perpetual Lease Lands 32 V.S.A. §§3609, 3610

Subsidized Housing 32 V.S.A. §3481(1)(B)

Housing Subsidy Covenant (Land Trust) 32 V.S.A. §3481(C)

Solar Panels and Projects 32 V.S.A. § 3802(17), 32 V.S.A. §3481(D)

Current Use 32 V.S.A. §3750 et seq.

Veterans 32 V.S.A. §3802(11)

Assessment Methods – Statutory Most Common in Burlington

Statutory Prescriptions

Subsidized Housing

Similar to income approach but with rules dictated by HUD

May be less than 4 units and still qualify

Housing Subsidy Covenant Property (Land Trust)

Market Value less leasehold, reduced by 30%

Caution - Don't compare an assessment of either of these types of housing to a property type that is not the same

Identifying Special Statutory Assessments Methods

How can you identify properties that are assessed by the income approach or a special

statutory method?

Look on the Lister Card

Land Trust Property

Income Approach Property

Subsidized Housing Property

- Everhome, Cathedral Sq., CHT



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Practical Considerations

~10,500 property parcels in Burlington

Nearly Every Property is Different

500-1,500 properties transfer each year

~1,000 Zoning and ~1,800 Building permits issued each year

-Approximately 30% are for projects over \$25,000

Market Prices constantly changing

Desirability of different housing types constantly evolve

The Appeal Timeframe

Grand List Lodged May 5th

Deadline to appeal assessment to Board of Assessors May 19, 2022

Deadline to Appeal to Board of Tax Appeals - 14 days after decision by Board of Assessors

Deadline to Appeal to State - 30 days after Board of Tax Appeals decision

Deadline to meet with Assessor to discuss your property assessment - Anytime

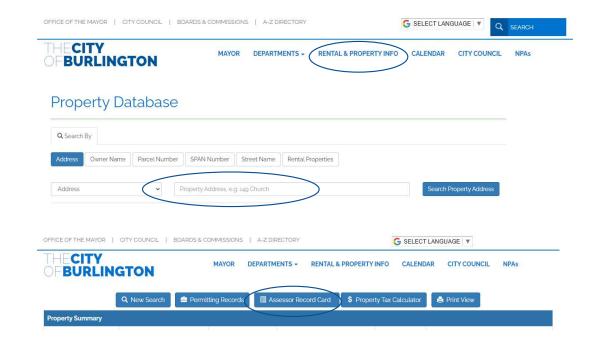
Understanding the Assessor's Record Card a.k.a., the Lister Card

Finding your Lister Card

www.Burlingtonvt.gov

Search for the Property

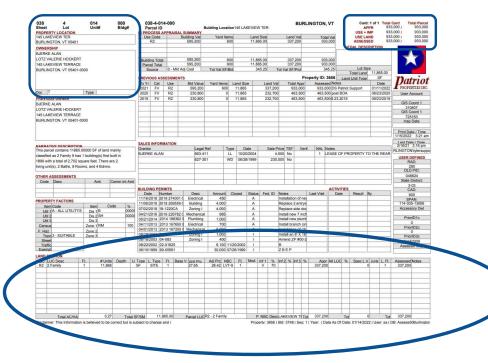
Select the Assessor Record Card Tab



Understanding the Assessor's Record Card a.k.a., the Lister Card

Property Address →

Land Section →

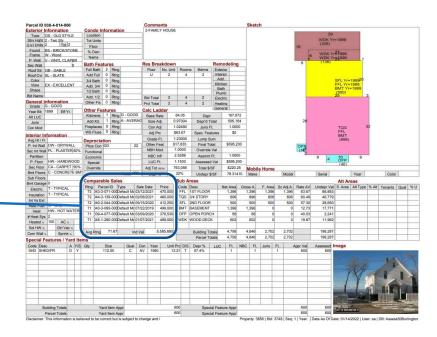


← Assessed Value

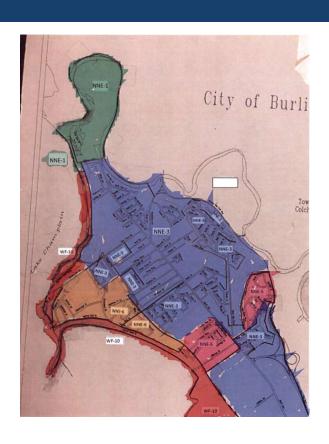
Understanding the Assessor's Record Card a.k.a., the Lister Card

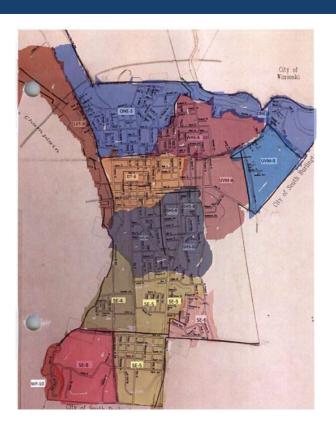
Building Information

Ignore this section, It's not used to determine value

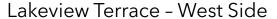


Lister Card – Land Assessment Districts





Lister Card – Land Assessment Subdistricts



UC LUC Desc	Ft.	# Units	Depth	U. Type	L Type	Ft	Base V.	Unit Pro	Adi Pre	NBC	Ft	Mod.	Inf 1	%	Inf 2	%	Inf 3	%	App
R2 2 Family	1	11,865		SF	SITE	1		27.65		LVT-9			V	70)			337,20

Lakeview Terrace - East Side

LUC	LUC Desc	Ft.	# Units	Depth	U. Type	L. Type	Ft	Base V.	Unit Pro	Adi Pro	NBC	Ft	Mod.	Inf 1	%	Inf 2	%	Inf3	96	Appr
R1	Single Fam	1	5,000		SF	SITE	1	1222000	27.65	32.08	LVT-9	1		-					100	160,400

5 Sisters Neighborhood

LUC L	UC Desc	Ft.	# Units	Depth	U. Type	L. Type	Ft	Base V. Unit Pro	Adi Pro	MBC	Ft	Mod.	Inf 1	%	Inf 2	36	Inf 3	%	Appr
R1 S	Single Fam	1	6,195		SF	SITE	1	022.5	42.28	SE-5	1			70					261,600

Hayward Street

LUC	LUC Desc	Ft.	# Units	Depth	U. Type	L Type	Ft	Base V. Unit Pro	Adj Pro	NBC	Ft	Mod.	Inf 1	%	Inf 2	96	Inf 3	%	Appr Al
R2	2 Family	1	4,901		SF	SITE	1	022.5	30.22	SE-5	1								148,100
-	The state of the s	-					-		0.000	-									

Lister Card – Land Property Characteristics

East Side Convent Square

LAND	SECTION															. \		21		1,01
LUC	LUC Desc	Ft.	# Units	Depth	U. Type	L. Type	Ft	Base V.	Unit Pro	Adi Pro	NBC	Ft	Mod	Inf 1	96	Inf 2	%	Inf 3	%	Аррг А
R2	2 Family	1	6,480		SF	SITE	1	(24.5	17.45	ONE-3	1		Т	-5					113,100
		-						-					-	\leftarrow		\forall	-		-	

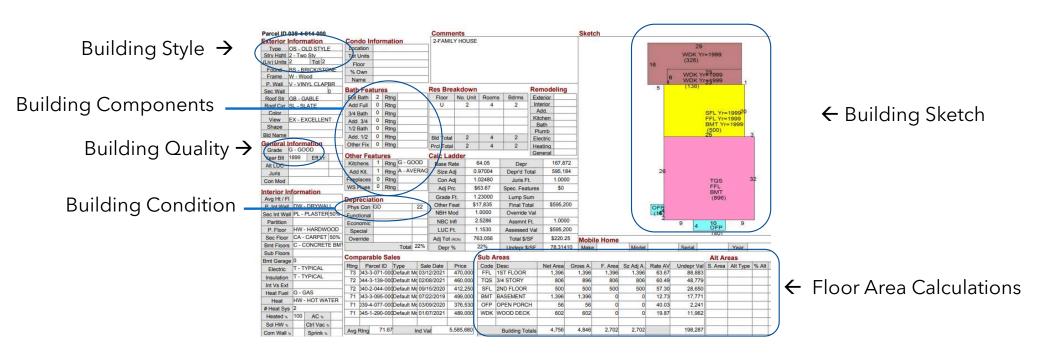
Slopes Ravines Wetlands Flood Plains

Proximity to Economic Detriments, Hazards, etc.

Elbow Street

LUC	LUC Desc	Ft.	# Units	Depth	U. Type	L. Type	Ft	Base V.	Unit Pro	Adi Pro	NBC	FL	Mod.	Inf 1	%	Int	2 %	Inf 3	%	Appr A
RL	Res Vac Land	1	3,800	2507800	SF	SITE	1	A STATE OF	9	2.08	NNE-1	1		F	-90			9.15	271	7,900
													\			V				
																1				

Lister Card - Building Building Characteristics



Lister Card – Building House Style

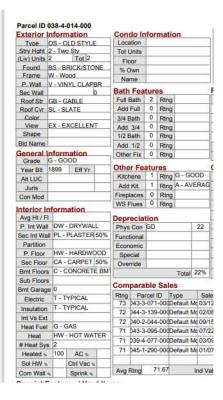
The Building Style determines the starting base rate for the Building.

RESIDENTIAL/CONDOMINIUM BUILDING COST TABLE

Building Type 🐣	Description *	Full Description	* Base Price *	Alternate Type
BG	BUNGELOW	BUNGELOW + CRAFTSMAN	\$61.00	APT3 - APT 2015
CC	CAPE COD	ONE STORY WITH ATTIC	\$61.75	APT3 - APT 2015
CD	CONDO DETACH	DETACHED SINGLE UNIT CONDO STRUCTURE	\$91.00	4
CL	COLONIAL	TWO STORY WITH ATTIC	\$63.65	APT3 - APT 2015
CO	COTTAGE	3 SEASON CAMP	\$30.00	APT3 - APT 2015
CS10	SMALL CONDO	SMALL CONDO: PRICE ADJUSTED BY +10% BOOSE TO 800S	\$100.00	AP2 - APT 2005
CS15	SMALL CONDO	SMALL CONDO:PRICE ADJUSTED BY +15%: 600 TO 800 SF	\$105.00	AP2 - APT 2005
CS20	SMALL CONDO	SMALL CONDO PRICE ADJUSTED BY +20% 600-800SF	\$109.00	AP2 - APT 2005
CS25	SMALL CONDO	SMALL CONDO PRICE ASJUSTED BY +25% 600-800 SF	\$114.00	AP2 - APT 2005
CS30	SMALL CONDO	SMALL CONDO: PRICE ADJUSTED BY +30% 450 TO 600 SF	\$118.00	
CS35	CONDO SMALL	CONDO SMALL PRICE ADJUSTED BY +35% 600-800 SF	\$123.00	AP2 - APT 2005
CS50	SMALL CONDO	SMALL CONDO: PRICE ADJUSTED BY +50%:450 SF OR LESS	\$137.00	
CS60	SMALL CONDO	SMALL CONDO: PRICE ADJUSTED BY +60%: 450 SF OR LES	\$146.00	
CT	CONTEMPORARY	POST-MODERN	\$65.00	APT3 - APT 2015
CTP	CONTEM CONDO	COMTEMPORARY STYLE CONDO	\$75.00	
CUS	CUSTOM	ARCHETECTUALLY BUILT UNIQUE FOR SITE		APT3 - APT 2015
DK	DECKER	MULTI-STRY 2+FAMILY BOX STYLE FLAT ROOF	\$60.00	APT3 - APT 2015
DP	DUPLEX	2 APT UNITS SIDE BY SIDE		APT3 - APT 2015
DW	DOUBLE WIDE	DOUBLE WIDE MODULAR UNIT		APT - APT 2014
FD	FEDERAL	FEDERAL STYLE		APT3 - APT 2015
FL	FLAT CONDO	FLAT CONDO		APT - APT 2014
FLFE	FLAT 1ST END	FLAT CONDO FIRST FLOOR END UNIT	\$86.45	
FLFI	FLAT 1ST INT	FLAT CONDO FIRST FLOOR INTERIOR UNIT	\$91.00	
FLL	FLAT W LOFT	CONDO FLAT WITH LOFT	\$95.64	APT - APT 2014
FLUE	FLAT UP END	FLAT CONDO UPPER FLOOR END UNIT	\$91.00	
FLUI	FLAT UP INT	FLAT CONDO UPPER FLOOR INTERIOR UNIT	\$91.00	-
FS	FOUR SQUARE	FOUR SQUARE STYLE		APT3 - APT 2015
MH	MOBILE HOME	MOBILE HOME UNLANDED 14WIDE		APT - APT 2014
ML	MBLE H W/LND	MOBILE HOME WITH LAND		APT - APT 2014
os	OLD STYLE	OLDER HOUSE WITHOUT A ARCHITECTUAL TYPE		APT3 - APT 2015
OT	OTHER CONDOS	OTHER RESIDENTIAL CONDOMINIUMS		APT - APT 2014
OTC	OTHER CONDO	OLDER HOUSES CONVERTED TO CONDOS OR DETACHED UNITS		
PENT	PENTHS CONDO	PENTHOUSE CONDO	\$120.00	
QHU	RENTAL SUBSE	DENTAL CURCIDITED HOLISING OULL		QHU - QUALF HSE UN
RC	RANCH	1 STORY HOUSE		APT3 - APT 2015
RG	RESGARAGEAPT	GARAGE WITH RESIDENCE APT		APT3 - APT 2015
RR	RAISED RANCH	LOWER LEVEL PARTLY BELOW GRADE		APT3 - APT 2015
SB	SALTBOX	2ND LEVEL HAS FULL DORMER ON ONE SIDE		APT3 - APT 2015
SL	SPLTLVL RNCH	1 STORY AT DIFFERENT LEVELS AND FINISHED BSMT		APT3 - APT 2015
TD	TUDOR	1		APT3 - APT 2015
TE	TOWN HOUSE	1		APT3 - APT 2015
TH		TOWNHOUSE CONDO	\$84.00	
THE	TOWNHS END	TOWNHOUSE CONDO END UNIT		APT3 - APT 2015
THI	TOWNHS INT	TOWNHOUSE CONDO INTERIOR UNIT	\$84.00	
TP	TRIPLEX	BUNIT APT SIDE BY SIDE	_	APT3 - APT 2015
VT	VICTORIAN	VICTORIAN OR QUEEN ANN STYLE	\$86.10	APT3 - APT 2015

Lister Card – Building House Elements / Components

The Building
Components
Section captures
the critical elements
of a building that
typically affect value



The building sketch and sub area calculation captures the floor areas for valuation

Code	Desc	Net Area	Gross A.	F. Area	Sz Adj A.	Rate AV	Undepr Vai
FFL	1ST FLOOR	1,396	1,396	1,396	1,396	63.67	88,883
TQS	3/4 STORY	806	896	806	806	60.49	48,779
SFL	2ND FLOOR	500	500	500	500	57.30	28,650
BMT	BASEMENT	1,396	1,396	0	0	12.73	17,771
OFP	OPEN PORCH	56	56	0	0	40.03	2,241
WDK	WOOD DECK	602	602	0	0	19.87	11,962
	Building Totals	4.756	4,846	2,702	2,702		198,287
	Parcel Totals	4,756	4,846	2,702	2,702		198,287

Lister Card Cost Calc Ladder

The Calc Ladder Contains **SOME** of the critical elements of the Cost Approach to Value calculation, but not all of them.

You **cannot** calculate all of the elements of your cost approach calculation based only on the Calc Ladder printed on the Lister Card.

Base Rate	64.05	Depr	167,872
Size Adi	0.97004	Depr'd Total	595,184
Con Adj	1.02480	Juris Ft.	1.0000
Adj Prc	\$63.67	Spec. Features	\$0
Grade Ft.	1.23000	Lump Sum	
Other Feat	\$17,835	Final Total	\$595,200
NBH Mod	1.0000	Override Val	
NBC Infl	2.5286	Assmnt Ft.	1.0000
LUC Ft.	1.1530	Assessed Val	\$595,200
Adj Tot (RCN)	763,056	Total \$/SF	\$220.25
Depr %	22%	Undepr \$/SF	78.31410

Cub Acces

Size Matters The Diminishing Cost Curve

In real estate, as well as many other commodity values, once a critical size has been reached, the overall value increases for additional units of size added, but the incremental value added by each additional unit decreases - resulting in a lower average value per total units. This is known as the diminishing cost curve.

For example, a single acre of rural land may cost \$25,000.

But 50 acres of similar rural land may cost \$100,000 or only \$2,000 per acre.

The cost curve applied by the Assessor's office is statistically derived from property sales for both land and building sizes.

You can do your own analysis, apply the statistical principles and argue your merits, or simply confine your comparables to very closely matched building/land sizes.

Making a Persuasive Case on Appeal: Challenging the Cost Basis Formula

Challenges to Uniformity

Prices per sq.ft. of land, finished, unfinished space

Standard valuations of amenities / components

My neighbor's house is nicer, but valued less

Challenging your assessment by comparison to the assessments of other properties is the least successful path - Why?

Comparing only a small number of the components used in the cost approach formula. If all components were included, the resulting value would be the same.

Vermont Law prohibits the use of other property assessments as the basis for determining a property's fair market value. <u>City of Barre v. Town of Orange</u>, 138 Vt. 484 (1980)

Making a Persuasive Case on Appeal: Correcting the Lister Card

This is the easiest and typically most effective route

Identify incorrect data and document property components on your Lister Card

Document steep, unbuildable or hazardous conditions on your land

Identify building/zoning permits that have been pulled but not performed

Identify elements that have been removed - pools, sheds, etc.

Re-evaluate Building Grade / Condition / Depreciation

Don't be surprised if someone wants to visit your property to confirm your claims.

Grade - the **Quality** of Building Construction - this helps determine the undepreciated cost approach value of the structure.

<u>Very Good Grade</u> buildings exhibit use of superior materials and workmanship. They have special architectural highlights and are typically custom designed. They generally are built with at least three full three to five fixture bathrooms and generally exceed 3,000 square feet in size.

Average Grade is considered Standard quality construction. Buildings in this classification are typical of today's construction and materials and methods. This class will meet current building code standards. A developer typically builds this class of building on a mass production basis. Most buildings in this class will be plumbed for at least one full bathroom, and a full functioning kitchen.

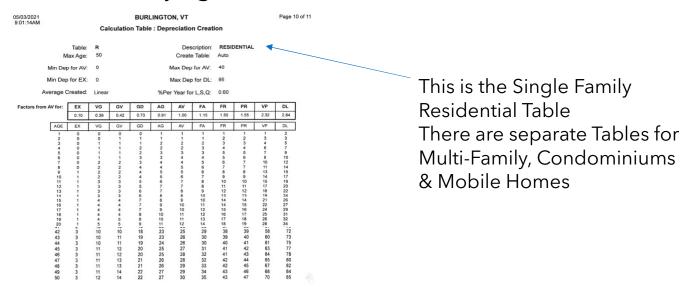
Fair Grade is considered below average in quality. Buildings in this classification will generally be found to have adequate electricity, heat, and plumbing, but the fixtures are commonly of below average quality. This class is considered to have the essential conveniences. Dwellings in this class are typically between 600 and 1,500 square feet in total size, though, again, there may be exceptions to this guideline.

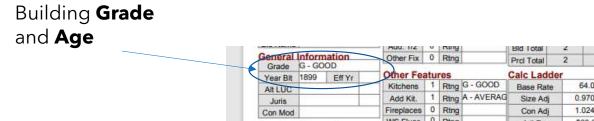
Poor Grade is the lowest class of construction providing minimal shelter. Most homes in this classification are not habitable year-round and are considered "camps" or "cabins". They lack basic insulation and may lack minimal plumbing fixtures and central heat. They are generally considered only for seasonal occupancy and will not have been constructed, in most instances by a modem builder, nor will they meet current building codes for year-round occupancy.

Condition - the extent of **deterioration** of the building and its principal components (Furnace, plumbing, electrical, etc.)

- <u>E = EXCELLENT</u> to indicate that the dwelling exhibits an outstanding standard of maintenance and upkeep in relation to its age.
- <u>G = GOOD</u> to indicate that the dwelling exhibits an above ordinary standard of maintenance and upkeep in relation to its age.
- A = AVERAGE to indicate that the dwelling shows only minor signs of deterioration caused by normal "wear and tear". The dwelling exhibits an ordinary standard of maintenance and upkeep in relation to its age.
- <u>F = FAIR</u> to indicate that the dwelling is in structurally sound condition, but has
 greater than normal deterioration relative to its age. Dwellings in "fair" physical
 condition may be characterized as having a noticeable degree of deferred
 maintenance.
- P = POOR to indicate that the dwelling shows signs of observable structural deterioration (like sagging roof, foundation cracks, uneven floors, etc.) usually caused by significant and chronic deferred maintenance
- VERY POOR to indicate that the structure is barely livable and close to condemnation.
- <u>DELAPITATED</u> to indicate that the dwelling is structurally unsound, not suitable for habitation possibly condemned. It is unfortunately possible that some dwellings may be occupied, but still suitable for coding as unsound.

Depreciation - The reduction from new construction values to account for the age and deterioration of the structure - driven by **Age** and **Condition**





Building Condition and Depreciation

Heating General 64.05 Depr 167,872 0.97004 595,184 Depr'd Total 1.02480 Juris Ft. 1.0000 WS Flues 0 Rtng \$63.67 \$0 Adj Pro Spec. Features Interior Information Grade Ft. 1.23000 Lump Sum Avg Ht / FI \$17,835 \$595,200 Final Total P. Int Wall DW - DRYWALL Other Feat Phys Con GD **NBH Mod** 1.0000 Override Val Sec Int Wall PL - PLASTER 50% 2.5286 1.0000 NBC Infl Assmnt Ft. P. Floor HW - HARDWOOD LUC Ft. 1.1530 Assessed Val \$595,200 Sec Floor CA - CARPET 50% 763,056 Total \$/SF \$220.25 Adj Tot (RON) Override Bmt Floors C - CONCRETE BM1 22% Undepr \$/SF 78.31410

Application of Depreciation to Structure to determine Depreciation amount and Depreciated value

Making a Persuasive Case on Appeal: Sales Comparison Approach

Hire a Professional Expert

Fee Appraiser Report

Realtor's Opinion of Value

Do it yourself

Identify Comparable Sales, 3-5 minimum

Identify Components of each property

Adjust for differences between Subject and Comparables

Making a Persuasive Case on Appeal: Sales Comparison Approach - DIY

Identify Relevant Comparable Sales

The More Recent the Better

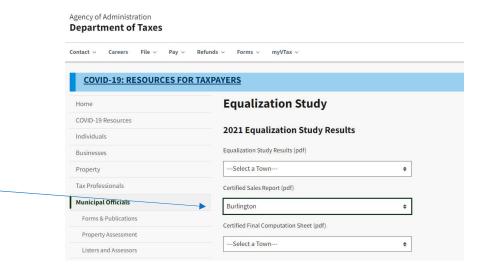
Sales over 2 years old rarely relevant

Where to find them

tax.vermont.gov/municipalities/reports/equalization-study

Recent Property Transfer Tax Returns

On file at City Hall



Making a Persuasive Case on Appeal: Sales Comparison Approach - DIY

Make a Chart of the Subject and Comparables

List the key Components

Ascribe values to differences

Adjust sales for market appreciation

Appraisal Valuation date is April 1

If Adjustment Ratios are not tight

look for better comparables

		fered for sale in the subject				900 In 5 145,000	209,90 in 5 27		
		highborhood within the past I						MPARABLE S	NEWS 1
FEATURE 105 Lafountain St	SUBJECT	13 Peru Street	ALE NO. 1	18 Marshall		ALE NO. 2		do Drive	ALE NO. 3
Address Burlington,		Burlington, VT 054	401	Burlington,				ton, VT 05	ane
Proximity to Subject	Y103401	0.38 miles SW	901	2.24 miles h			2.72 mi		400
Sale Price	1 190.500	U.36 ITRIES SW	250.000	2.24 maes n	T.	202.000	2./2 111	IGO LAAA	165.00
CHARLES AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE PART	The second second second	1 259.88 up.t	230,000	1 350.69 sa	-	202,000	4 107	31 st.t	165,00
Sale Price Gross Lie. Area	3 236,13 tq R	1 259.88 uj.t NNERENMLS #47878	1400111	NNERENMLS		44.00044.45			83:DOM 128
Data Source(s)									
Verfication Source(s)	Land State State State	List Agt/List Price		List Agt/List		-	-	/List Price	-
VALUE ADJUSTMENTS	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	«31 Aquatrum	DESCRIPTIO	281.	+11 Agurese		RIPTION	+E1Abriton
Sale or Financing		ArmLth		ArmLth			ArmLth		
Concessions		Cash;0		Conv;0			Conv;0		
Date of Sale/Time		s02/20;c12/19		s05/20;c04/	20		502/20:	c01/20	
Location	N:Res:	N:Res:		N:Res:	_		N:Res:	an I a	-
Leasehold/Fee Simple	Fee Simple	Fee Simple		Fee Simple			Fee Sin	npie	
She	2609 st	1699 sf	. 0	6098 st	_		6534 sf		
View	N;CtyStr;	N;CtyStr;		N;Res;	\rightarrow		N:Res:		9
Design (Style)	DT1.5;VintCape	DT1.5;VintCape		DTI:Ranch		0	DT1.5;C	ape	1 10
Quality of Construction	Q4	Q4		Q4	\rightarrow		Q4		
Actual Age	90	121		60	_	0	67		
Condition	C4	C4	-5,000	C4			C5		10,00
Above Grade	Total Rains Buts	Total Rates - Baltis			lates .		Total Manys	lum	
Room Count	5 2 1.0	6 2 1.0	0		2.0.	-5,000	6 2	1.0	2 11
Gross Living Area 25	800 sq.ft.	962 su. n.	-4,100		5 sq. ft.	5,600		1,296 sq.1	-12,40
Blasement & Finished Rooms Below Grade	Osf	656sf0sfin	-12,000	864sfOsfin		-12,000	B10sf0s	fin	-12,00
Functional Utility	Average	Average		Average			Averag	10	
Heating/Cooling	FWA/No AC	FWA/No AC		FWA/No AC	3		FWA/N		
Energy Efficient Items	Standard Fts	Standard Fts		Standard F			Standa		
Garage/Carport	2dw	2dw		1gg2dw			1pd2d		-6.00
Parch/Patio/Deck	Encisd Porch	Cyrd Porch	0	Deck	\rightarrow		Enclad		-0,00
Freplace(s).etc.	None	Gas Stove	-2.000		\rightarrow	-,200	Woods		-2.00
Shed, Pool, etc.	Shed	None		Shed			None		50
							2.000.00		7
Net Adjustment (Total)		D+ X)- 1	22,600	D+ (X)-	- 5	16,400		X)- 5	21,90
Adjusted Sale Price of Comparables		Net Adj9.0% Gross Adi. 9.4% 5	227,400	N/A/E -8.1		185,600	Not Adj. Gross Adj.	-13.3% 26.0% \$	143.10

Making a Persuasive Case on Appeal: Sales Comparison Approach - DIY

Here is an example of the Sales Comparison Report generated by The City Assessor's Office

9/12/2021 8:57:02PM	BURLINGTON, VT Sales Comparison Report				
	Subject	Comp 1	Comp 2	Comp 3	
PARCEL ID	039-2-017-000	044-2-081-000	044-1-097-000	044-1-191-000	
ACCT#	3767	4943	4561	4649	
STNO	105	13	10	26	
STREET	LAFOUNTAIN ST	PERU ST	MYRTLE ST	ROSE ST	
SALE DATE	Jun 29, 2020	Feb 14, 2020	Aug 31, 2020	Feb 05, 2020	
SALE PRICE	191,500	250,000	303,000	300,000	
TOTAL APPRAISED	251,100	234,400	256,700	277,900	
TIME ADJ	N/A	0	0	0	
LAND USAGE	R1	R1	R1	R1	
NEIGHBORHOOD	ONE-3	ONE-3	ONE-3	ONE-3	
LAND AREA	2,609.00	1,715.00	1,387.00	6,330.00	
LAND ADJ	N/A	4,400	6,000	-18,200	
BUILDING TYPE	CAPE COD	OLD STYLE	OLD STYLE	OLD STYLE	
FINISHED AREA	750	736	756	1,012	
UNITS	1	1	1	1	
STORY HEIGHT	1.5	1	1.5	1.75	
YEAR BUILT	1930	1899	1910	1899	
CONDITION	Average	Average	Good	Average	
GRADE	A	F+	A	F+	
ROOMS	5	6	5	6	
BEDROOMS	3	3	3	3	
BATHS	1	1	1	1	
HALF BATHS	0	0	0	0	
EXTERIOR WALLS	VINYL CLAPBR	CLAPBRD.WOOD	ALUMINUM	VINYL CLAPBR	
INTERIOR WALLS	DRYWALL	DRYWALL	DRYWALL	PLASTER	
FLOOR TYPE	CARPET	HARDWOOD	HARDWOOD	SOFTWOOD	
HEAT FUEL	GAS	GAS	GAS	GAS	
HEAT TYPE	HOT AIR	HOT WATER	SPACE HEAT	HOT WATER	
AIR CONDITION%	0	0	0	0	
CONSTRUCTION ADJ	0.94050	0.98686	0.93901	0.92028	
BASEMENT GARAGES	0.34030	0.50000	0.33301	0.52020	
FIREPLACES	0	0	1	0	
SFYI VALUE	300	0	0	0	
BUILDING ADJ	N/A	41.000	17,100	20.100	
YARD ITEM ADJ	N/A	300	300	300	
TOTAL ADJ	N/A	45 700	23.400	2,200	
TOTAL ADJ RATING	N/A 0	45,700	23,400	2,200	
ADJ SALE PRICE	N/A	295,700	326,400	302,200	

Equalization

An appeal to the Board is a de novo proceeding, and the Board must determine whether the listed value of the property corresponds to the listed value of comparable properties within the town. 32 V.S.A. § 4467. This is essentially a two-step procedure. First, the fair market value of the property must be determined. Bailey v. Town of Craftsbury, 144 Vt. 260, ---, 475 A.2d 1390, 1391 (1984) (citing Town of Walden v. Bucknam, 135 Vt. 326, 328, 376 A.2d 761, 763 (1977)). Next, the fair market value must be "equalized" to insure that the property is listed comparably to corresponding properties in town. 32 V.S.A. §§ 4467, 4601. See City of Barre v. Town of Orange, 138 Vt. 484, 487, 417 A.2d 939, 941 (1980); New England Power Co. v. Town of Barnet, 134 Vt. [144 Vt. 351] 498, 509, 367 A.2d 1363, 1370 (1976). When comparable properties exist, their current market value must be compared with their current listed value to arrive at an equalization rate. This rate must then be applied to the subject property's fair market value to produce the proper listed value. Village of Morrisville Water & Light Department v. Town of Hyde Park, 134 Vt. 325, 330, 360 A.2d 882, 885 (1976) (constitutional principles contained within § 4467 can be complied with by establishing fair market value and assessing a listed valuation on the same percentage basis as that applied to comparable properties).

Kachadorian v. Town of Woodstock, 144 Vt. 348 (1984).

Equalization

Where to find the current Equalization Ratio

tax.vermont.gov/municipalities/reports/equalization-study

Agency of Administration

Department of Taxes



The Appeal Process - Step 1

Gather your information, Review your Lister Card

Identify the Basis for your Appeal

Cost Approach - Identify incorrect data on the Lister Card

Sales Comparison - Identify and document comparable sales

Document your Case

File a Notice of Grievance with the Board of Assessors

The Appeal Process - Step 2

Appeal to the Board of Assessors (BOA)

Who is on the Board

Initial Submission

Review of the Response

Meeting with the Board

Site Visit

The Appeal Process – Step 3

Appeal to the Board of Tax Appeals (BOTA)

Who is on the Board

Initial Submission

Review of the Response

Meeting with the Board

Failure to attend hearing

Site Visit

The Appeal Process – Step 4A

Appeal to State of Vermont, Dept of Taxes, Division of Property Valuation and Review (PVR)

Notice of Appeal must be filed with the City Clerk

- Within 30 days of BOTA Decision
- Accompanied by payment of \$70

Status Conference with Hearing Officer / Appraiser

Site Visit

Final Hearing

The Appeal Process – Step 4B

Appeal to Vermont Superior Court, Civil Division

Notice of Appeal must be filed with the City Clerk

- Within 30 days of BOTA Decision
- Accompanied by payment of \$295

Status Conference(s)

Discovery

Trial

Impact of Final Determination

Final Decision may be higher, lower or the same as current Assessment

Tax bill will be retroactively revised for affected year

Future appeals limited by City Charter

(e) The decision of the Board of Tax Appeals, if not further appealed, shall become the basis for the grand list of the taxpayer for the year in question plus the next two years unless new information of a material nature about the property is discovered, the property is materially changed, or the City undertakes a rolling or complete reevaluation of real estate that includes the property in question.

Burlington City Charter Section 92(e)

Additional Resources

This presentation and slide deck will posted on the City's website:

www.Burlingtonvt.gov

Vermont Secretary of State website:

www.sos.vermont.gov/municipal-division/laws-resources/

Vermont Department of Taxes

www.tax.vermont.gov/municipal-officials/certification-education-programs/materials

